companies are agreeable to renegotiate their claims as well as the counter claims of GEB for resolving the disputes. Accordingly, GEB has been advised to depute a team of senior officers to coal companies to sort out the claims of coal companies and also the counter claims of GEB.

Production and consumption of Coal

2031. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM:
SHRI MUKESH R. PATEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any data of total production and consumption of coal in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much coal is being imported every year and from which countries; and

(d) the details, country-wise and name of the importer agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Total coal production and coal offtake in the country during 1996-97 are as under:—

(million tonnes)

Production	Offtake
285.66	286.16

(c) and (d) As per the existing import policy, coal can be freely imported and such imports are generally resorted to by the actual consumers of coal without any reference to the Ministry of Coal. However as per the information available in the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, the quantum of coal imported during 1996-97 was 13.25 million tonnes (provisional). Out of this 9.59 million tonnes (provisional) of coking coal was imprted by steel plants of Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) and Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO). Countries from where bulk of the coal is being imported are Australia, New Zealand, Peoples' Republic of China, South Africa and the USA.

Approval of coal mining plan

2032. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mining plan has to be approved by Central Government before a captive mining lease for Coal can be granted by concerned State Government;

(b) whether the norm stipulates that the coal from such mines for power sector would be used for captive generation and not for sale outside;

(c) whether in the case of Central India Coal Company (CICC) a Captive Coal Company in Chandrapur for Bhadrawati Power Plant in Maharashtra (a) and (b) above have been followed; and

(d) whether CICC is proposing to sell the mined coal to users other than Bhadrawati Power Plant. If yes, whether the same is being prohibited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) Before a lease for mining coal can be granted by the concerned State Government, a mining plan has to be approved by the Central Government and the prior permission of the Central Government for grant of a lease must be sought for and granted by the Central Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the case of Central India Coal Company the mining plan was approved by the Central Government and approval communicated on 13-9-96. The State Government has sought the prior permission of the Central Government for grant of mining lease but this has so far not been accorded.

(d) The Central India Coal Company is required to sell all its mined coal to its captive user namely, the Bhadrawati Power Plant. The Central India Coal Company has sought permission to sell coal which may not be purchased by Bhadrawati Power Company to the Maharashtra State Electricity Board. No decision on this request has so far been taken.

Identifying subsidence prone area in Raniganj Coalfield

2033. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Apex Monitoring Committee (AMC) was constituted jointly by Coal India Ltd. and Government of West Bengal to identify subsidence prone area in Raniganj Coalfield;

(b) whether AMC had identified unsafe localities; if yes, the list of such localities and total population likely to be affected.

(c) areas identified for stabilisation work on priority basis;

(d) whether any global search has been made for identifying appropriate technology for stabilisation work; and

(e) fund required for stabilisation work and the action plan to execute the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Apex Monitoring Committee (AMC) have identified 70 unsafe localities in the Raniganj Coalfields, 49 in June, 1992 and 21 in September, 1995. A list of these localities is given in the Statement I and II. (See below). The total population likely to be affected has been estimated as 1.59 lakhs (as per census report of 1991).

(c) The areas identified for stabilisation on priority basis are given in the Statement-III. (See below).

(d) Global search was made for appropriate and proven technology for stabilisation of old water-logged inaccessible and unstable workings. However, no positive response could be obtained.

(e) The stabilisation programme alongwith requirement of fund, source of fund and the implementing mechanism is under process of formulation by a "High Powered Committee" comprising Secretary (Coal) as the Chairman and representatives of Planning Commission, Ministry of Labour, Govt. of West Bengal and Bihar, Director General of Mines Safety, Coal India Limited, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute and Bharat Coking Coal Limited as members.

Meanwhile, stabilisation working in five localities has already been taken up by Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) with the financial assistance from Ministry of Coal.

Statement-I

Areas examined by Apex Monitoring Committee

Sl. No.	Location
1.	*Shankarpur village
2.	Haripur village
3.	*Sikarpur Basti
4.	Dhangarpatti
5.	*Bahula Moti Bazar
6.	Palasben village
7.	Kuldanga village
8.	Kenda village
9.	Santhal Basti (Belbaid)
10.	Bhasal village
11.	Kumarbazar (Raniganj Towwn)
12.	Pararbandh (Raniganj Town)
13.	*Tapasi village
14.	Pottary area (Raniganj Town)
15.	Arun Talkies (Raniganj Town)
16.	Gawala Bastee (Raniganj Town)

*No apparent danger according to AMC.